

## CHAPTER 15

### PLUMBING CODE

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#### **15.01 STATE REGULATIONS ADOPTED.**

- (1) ADOPTED BY REFERENCE. Ch. 145, Wis. Stats., and the State Plumbing Code, Comm. Chs. 81 to 85 are adopted and by reference made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of such regulations shall constitute a violation of this chapter, punishable according to the penalties provided herein.
- (2) TO BE ON FILE. A copy of the State Plumbing Code shall be on file in the office of the Plumbing Inspector.

#### **15.02 PLUMBING DEFINED.** In this chapter, "plumbing" means and includes the following:

- (1) All piping, fixtures, appliances, equipment, devices and appurtenances in connection with the water supply, water distribution and drainage systems, including hot water storage tanks, water softeners and water heaters connected with such water and drainage systems, and the installation thereof.
- (2) The construction, connection or installation of any drain or waste piping system from the outside or proposed outside foundation walls of any building to the mains or other sewerage system terminal within bounds of or beneath an area subject to easement for highway purposes, including private domestic sewage treatment and disposal systems, and the alteration of any such systems, drains or waste piping.
- (3) The water service piping from the outside or proposed outside foundation walls of any building to the main or other water utility service

terminal within bounds of or beneath an area subject to easement for highway purposes and its connections.

- (4) The water pressure systems other than municipal systems as provided in Ch. 145.04(3), Wis. Stats.
- (5) A plumbing and drainage system so designed and vent piping so installed as to keep the air within the system in free circulation and movement; to prevent with a margin of safety unequal air pressures of such force as might blow, siphon or affect trap seals or retard the discharge from plumbing fixtures or permit sewer air to escape into the building; to prohibit cross connection, contamination or pollution of the potable water supply and distribution systems; and to provide an adequate supply of water to properly serve, cleanse and operate all fixtures, equipment, appurtenances and appliances served by the plumbing system.

#### **15.03 PLUMBING INSPECTOR.**

- (1) APPOINTMENT. See §1.03(8) of this code.
- (2) QUALIFICATIONS. The Plumbing Inspector shall be a licensed plumber. The Common Council shall be authorized to contract for the services of a plumbing inspector and the contract shall be for a specified term and shall provide that the contract may be renewed or terminated, at the pleasure of the Common Council.
- (3) POWERS AND DUTIES.
  - (a) General. The Plumbing Inspector shall enforce all provisions of this chapter and all other State and City provisions relating to the construction, installation, alteration and repair

of all plumbing within the City and shall make such inspections, perform such tests and issue such orders as may be necessary for such enforcement. In the discharge of his duties, the Plumbing Inspector may enter any building during reasonable hours for the purpose of inspection.

- (b) Permits. The Plumbing Inspector shall take applications and issue to qualified applicants permits as required for all work contemplated by this chapter and shall maintain suitable records of the permits issued.

(c) Reports.

1. To Council. The Plumbing Inspector shall make such reports to the Council as it may require concerning the activities of his office.
2. To the Department of Commerce. The Plumbing Inspector shall make such reports to the Department of Commerce as are required under §145.04(3), Wis. Stats.

- (d) Stop Work Orders. The Plumbing Inspector may order work stopped on the construction, installation, alteration or repair of plumbing when such work is being done in violation of this chapter. Work so stopped shall not be resumed except on written permission of the Plumbing Inspector, provided that if the stop work order is an oral one, it shall be followed by a written order within a reasonable period of time.

#### **15.04 PLUMBING PERMITS.**

- (1) **REQUIRED**. No work contemplated by this chapter shall be started until a permit therefore has been obtained from the Plumbing Inspector.
- (2) **APPLICATION**. The Application shall be in writing upon forms provided by the Plumbing Inspector and shall include the name of the owner and the description of the property on which the work is to be done, and all plumbing to be installed, along with such pertinent information as the Plumbing Inspector may require, and shall state that the property owner and the applicant will be bound by and subject to the provisions of this chapter.
- (3) **ISSUANCE; TERM**. When the Plumbing Inspector is satisfied that the work proposed by the applicant can be done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, and after the appropriate fees have been paid to him, he shall issue the permit. Such permit shall be good for the

continuous performance of the work named thereon. A permit shall automatically expire if work has not been commenced within 90 days of the date of issuance or when work ceases for a period of 90 days without good and reasonable cause for same and shall automatically expire on completion of the work for which it was issued; provided the Plumbing Inspector may, upon notice, suspend or revoke such permit for violation of the provisions of this chapter.

(4) **RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE.**

- (a) No plumbing permit shall be issued to any person who is in violation of this chapter until such violation has been corrected.
- (b) No plumbing permit shall be issued to any person against whom an order issued by the Plumbing Inspector is pending.

(5) **FAILURE TO ISSUE; SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION**. Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Plumbing Inspector to refuse to issue a permit or to suspend or revoke such permit may, within 20 days thereafter, appeal from such order or ruling to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

- (6) **FEES**. See the City's Official Fee Schedule. All permit fees shall be doubled if plumbing work commences before the required permits are obtained and the proper fees paid. The fees shall be doubled for each violation.

**15.05 PLUMBERS TO BE LICENSED**. All plumbing work in the City shall be done only by plumbers licensed by the State for such work, or their employees.

**15.06 INSPECTION OF WORK**. The plumber in charge shall notify the Plumbing Inspector whenever any work is ready for inspection, e.g., soil, vent, underground drain, final inspection. All plumbing work shall be left exposed until such time as the Inspector has completed his examination and inspection. When, in the opinion of the Inspector, a test in addition to that provided in the State Plumbing Code is necessary, he may require a water or air test in any part of or the entire installation.

**15.07 CONNECTIONS TO SANITARY SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS REQUIRED**. All plumbing, as defined in this chapter, within the City shall connect properly with the sanitary sewer and water mains of the City, where such mains are available in a street, alley or public way adjoining the lot or lots upon which such plumbing exists. All septic tanks shall be removed or emptied and filled with earth.

**15.08 WATER LATERAL AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**.

- (1) **WATER CONNECTIONS**.

- (a) Lateral. The City Water Department shall construct the water lateral and locate the curb box at an approximate depth of 6 feet below street grade.
  - (b) Gooseneck Required. A large looped gooseneck shall be installed in the copper pipe adjacent to the corporation cock in such a manner as to allow for any settlement of the earth without breaking the copper water service.
  - (c) Approval of Valves. No corporation cock, curb stop box or meter shall be used unless it has been approved by the Utility Superintendent. These materials may be purchased from the Water Department at cost together with an amount equal to a percentage of the cost to cover handling and inventory, said percentage to be determined by the Public Safety Committee. (1762 08/09/94, 2033 11/14/2000)
  - (d) Meter Spreads. A meter spread or copper horn of the same size as the meter to be installed shall be placed on the water service pipe within one foot of the inside of the front wall of the building unless permission is granted by the Utility Superintendent to install it elsewhere. Meters shall be provided with 2 shutoff valves, one on the supply line and one on the house side of the meter spread. The size of the meter shall be prescribed by the Utility Superintendent. (2033 11/14/2000)
  - (e) Location of Laterals. Copper water service one inch or less in size may be laid in the same ditch with a sewer lateral. Copper water service laterals larger than one inch shall be laid at a distance of not less than 4 feet from any sewer lateral.
  - (f) Discontinuance of Water Lateral. In any case where an iron water lateral is to be renewed or its use discontinued for any reason, the old pipe shall be cut off at the main, regardless of whether or not it is to be replaced in another location. If the iron lateral is connected to a corporation cock, this may be shut off; otherwise, the iron lateral shall be removed and the main capped.
- (2) **WATER SERVICE.**
- (a) Turning on Water Service. No plumber shall, unless permission is first obtained from the Water Department or the Plumbing Inspector, turn on, or leave turned on any water service curb stop after completion of his or her work, which for any reason has been turned off by the City Water Department. (1763 08/09/94).
  - (b) Water Supply Piping. Where practical, the building supply pipe shall be laid at right angles to curb lines so that its location may be readily determined. All private and public water mains and pipes located or laid within or beneath an area subject to an easement or right-of-way of a highway, street or alley or to a public service or utility right-of-way or easement shall meet the following specifications:
    1. All pipes or mains of a diameter of two inches or less in size shall be of approved copper.
    2. All pipes or mains of a greater diameter than two inches shall be of approved iron pipe.
    3. All water supply piping from a curb stop and in connection with the plumbing system shall be done by a licensed plumber. Under no circumstances, will the Water Department be responsible for thawing a customer's lateral if the customer's portion of the lateral is not electrically conductive. (1764 08/09/94, 1865 04/16/96)
- (3) **LATERAL PAYMENT REQUIRED**. No taps shall be made by the Water Department until the lateral has been paid for in cash and an order is obtained from the Water Department that such payment has been made.
- (4) **FINAL INSPECTION**. When plumbing work has been completed within a building, it shall be mandatory that the Plumbing Inspector be notified so that final inspection can be made. (1765 08/09/94)
- 15.09 CLEAR WATERS.**
- (1) **DISCHARGE**. No person shall cause, allow or permit any roof drain, surface drain, sub-soil drain, drain from any mechanical device, gutter, ditch, pipe, conduit, sump pump, or any other object or thing used for the purposes of collecting, conducting, transporting, diverting, draining or discharging clear water from any part of any private premises owned or occupied by said person to discharge into a sanitary sewer.
  - (2) **NUISANCE**. The discharge into a sanitary sewer from any roof drain, surface drain, sub-soil drain, drain from any mechanical device, gutter, ditch, pipe, conduit, sump pump or any other object or thing used for the purposes of collecting, conducting, transporting, diverting, draining or discharging clear water from any part of any private premises is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and a hazard to the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the City and to the protection of property.

- (3) **GROUND WATER.** Where deemed necessary by the Plumbing Inspector, every house shall have a sump pump installed for the purpose of discharging clear waters from foundation drains and ground infiltration and where the building is not serviced by a storm sewer shall either discharge into an underground conduit leading to a drainage ditch, gutter, dry well, or shall discharge onto the ground surface in such other manner as will not constitute a nuisance as defined herein.
- (4) **STORM WATER DISCHARGE.** All roof drains, surface drains, drains from any mechanical device, gutters, pipe, conduits or any other objects or things used for the purpose of collecting, conducting, transporting, diverting, draining or discharging storm waters shall be discharged either into a storm sewer, a dry well, an underground conduit leading to a drainage ditch or onto the ground surface in such other manner as will not constitute a nuisance as defined herein.
- (5) **STORM SEWER LATERAL.** Where municipal storm sewers are provided and it is deemed necessary by the City to discharge clear waters from a parcel of land, a storm sewer lateral shall be installed and connected to the storm sewer main at the expense of the owner.
- (6) **DISCHARGE OF WATER DURING WINTER MONTHS.** No person shall discharge any storm water or clear water between November 30 and March 31 of each year unless connected by underground laterals. During such periods, and where no storm sewer is available, such water shall be allowed to discharge onto the owner's lawn or into any underground conduit leading to a drainage ditch, gutter or dry well, but no such discharge shall be allowed or permitted to flow on or across any public street, sidewalk or right of way.
- (7) **CONDUCTING TESTS.** If the Utility Superintendent or his designated agent suspects an illegal clear water discharge, as defined by this code or by any other applicable provision of the Wisconsin Administrative Code as it may from time to time be amended, he may, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, enter the private premises where such illegal clear water discharge is suspected and conduct appropriate tests to determine whether such suspected illegal clear water discharge actually exists. (2033 11/14/2000)

**15.10 GREASE SEPARATORS.** Grease catch basins or separators of a capacity based upon the temperature and the amount of the water tributary shall be installed wherever kitchen or other greasy wastes from hotels, restaurants, clubhouses, boarding houses, public or private institutions, hospitals or similar places are discharged into a public sewer or private sewage disposal system. Garbage disposal units shall not be tributary to grease catch basins or interceptors.

**15.11 STREET EXCAVATIONS.** See §8.03 of this Code.

**15.12 PENALTY.** Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter or any regulation, rule or order made hereunder shall be subject to a penalty as provided in §25.04 of this Code.